

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 AGR-20 AID-20

OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /141 W  
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R 092222Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 897

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN INDEPENDENT PRESS ENDANGERED

1. AS JULY 28 PERUVIAN NATIONAL DAY APPROACHES, THERE IS MORE AND MORE TALK THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE THE END OF A PRIVATELY OWNED PRESS AND THE CREATION OF WORKER-OWNED NEWSPAPERS; E.G., IT IS RUMORED THAT LA PRENSAQ WILL BE GIVEN TO THE SUGAR WORKERS.

2. BOTH LA PRENSA AND EL COMERCIO, THE TWO LARGEST DAILIES, HAVE BEEN EDITORIALIZING REPEATEDLY AGAINST A REVISION OF NEWSPAPER OWNERSHIP LAWS, DECLARING THAT SUCH A MEASURE WILL DESTROY "FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION" IN PERU AND ONLY SERVE COMMUNIST INTERESTS.

3. VETERAN INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES ARE CONVINCED THAT MILGOV WILL INDEED SILENCE ITS PRESS CRITICS BY REVISING OWNERSHIP LAWS. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THAT MILGOV WILL CREATE STATE-OWNED NEWS AGENCY, WHICH WILL BUY NEWS SERVICES  
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FROM FOREIGN AGENCIES AND EXCLUSIVELY REDISTRIBUTE OWN EDITED

VERSION OF WIRE REPORTS.

4. PROBABILITY THAT MILGOV INTENDS RESTRUCTURE PRESS WAS CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR BY A LEFTIST, PRO-GOVERNMENT JOURNALIST WHO IS A MEMBER OF COMMISSION PREPARING NEW MEDIA LAW. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT ENTIRELY SURE THAT LAW WOULD BE READY BY JULY 28.

5. MEANTIME, CARETAS DIRECTOR ENRIQUE ZILERI CONTINUES TO ELUDE MILGOV EFFORTS TO DEPORT HIM AND REMAINS IN HIDING, PROBABLY IN LIMA. HE IS IN TOUCH WITH INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES AND EXPECTED TO GRANT A PRESS CONFERENCE CLANDESTINELY AFTER JULY 28, WHEN THE FUTURE OF THE PRESS SHOULD BE CLEARER.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT A NEW SYSTEM OF PRESS OWNERSHIP MAY BE ANNOUNCED ON JULY 28. UNDER THE GOVERNMENT'S SCHEME, IT APPEARS THAT THE NEW FORCES CREATED BY THE REVOLUTION, I.E., THE FISHERMEN, THE SUGAR PLANTATION WORKERS, THE NEW FARMERS, WILL BE GIVEN OWNERSHIP OF THE PRESS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PRESENT OWNERS WHO REPRESENT PERU'S OLIGARCHIC PAST, E.G., THE MIRO QUESADAS OF EL COMERCIO AND BELTRANS OF LA PRENSA. THE NEW FORCES ARE OF COURSE DEPENDENT ON THE GOVERNMENT AND UNLIKELY TO BE CRITICAL OF THE REGIME. IF ENACTED, THE NEW PRESS MEASURES WILL SIMPLY CONFIRM THE INCREASINGLY ABSOLUTE POWER OF PRESIDENT VELASCO. THE LIKELIHOOD OF INTERNAL REACTION AGAINST A PRESS RESTRUCTURING SEEMS REMOTE.  
DEAN

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**To:** STATE  
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